

22ND JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF
MCHENRY
COUNTY

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22nd Judicial Circuit

Bench Press

Judge Maureen P. McIntyre's

December, 2016

Outstanding Dedication to the Youth of McHenry County —By James Edwards



The Honorable Maureen P. McIntyre has displayed outstanding personal dedication and extraordinary commitment to the youth of McHenry County as the Presiding Judge of the Court's Juvenile Division. She has been the primary Juvenile Court Judge presiding over delinquency, as well as abuse and neglect matters, for the past seven years. As she steps down from the bench at the end of December, she leaves behind a legacy of exceptional leadership and passion to the court, youth, and families of McHenry County.

Having the opportunity to observe Judge McIntyre through her many proceedings, one will readily identify a judge wearing many hats and varying her approach to fit the needs of a given situation from one case to the next. Taking into account the risk factors and family dynamics of each case, Judge McIntyre has the astounding ability to sternly reprimand in one matter before the Court, give motherly advice to the next, and subsequently shift to the role of mental health counselor. She does this by knowing



the dynamics of each case as she gathers knowledge from her court team, reading every report, investigation, and psychological assessment.

Although self-proclaimed as "not a meeting person," Judge McIntyre led many meetings and shaped the direction of the court's evidence-based programming and strategies. An astute legal scholar, Judge McIntyre kept her court team up-to-date on all new and pending legislation and initiatives to adjust to changes in the Juvenile Court Act. Among her many other accomplishments in Juvenile Court, her "softer side" included sponsoring an art contest for kids in her courtroom and she inspired

the Juvenile Probation Division to begin a garden project for youth as a community service project.

Off the bench, Judge McIntyre is a leader, mentor, and confidant; leading by example, with both patience and enthusiasm. She will be missed by all that have had the fortunate opportunity of working with her side by side for many years, starting with her time in rights court to the present, as she has led and collaborated with probation officers, state's attorneys, public defenders, caseworkers, court security, and of course her many colleagues in the judiciary.

Judge Robert A. Wilbrandt, Jr. Appointed to fill Circuit Judgeship



Pursuant to an order from the Illinois Supreme Court, effective January 3, 2017, and terminating on December 3, 2018, the Hon. Robert A. Wilbrandt, Jr., Associate Judge 22nd Judicial Circuit was appointed Circuit Judge at large to the position presently held by the Hon. Maureen P McIntyre is retiring from judicial office on December 31, 2016.

Judge Wilbrandt has been an Associate Judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit for over ten years, and is currently assigned to a jury trial call in the Criminal

Division. He grew up in Crystal Lake, where he graduated from Crystal Lake Community (Central) High School, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and Northwestern University Law School. He also obtained a graduate degree in history, and has taught business law, and history classes at McHenry County College for more than twenty five years.

Judge Wilbrandt is the recipient of the McHenry County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award, and the Turning Point McHenry County Domestic

Violence Agency Peace and Justice Award. He has previously acted as the Public Defender for McHenry County, and as a prosecuting attorney for the Village of Fox River Grove. Currently, he presents legal programs for McHenry County high school students on behalf of the McHenry County Bar Association and the Illinois Judges Association.

Judge Wilbrandt is an avid thespian and motor scooter-erist. Judge Wilbrandt lives in Woodstock with his wife Maureen.

Monica Minnis to Fulfill Role of Language Access Coordinator



Beginning December 1, 2016, Monica Minnis will be the inaugural Language Access Coordinator for the 22nd Judicial Circuit.

Monica was born in Argentina and learned English as a second language when she was five years old. She attended Universidad Nacional de Tucuman Law School and immigrated to the United States in 1991.

Since 1995, Monica has worked as an interpreter for the Department of Immigration and the courts.

Monica began working

with the 22nd Judicial Circuit in 2006 and became a full time interpreter in 2007.

Monica speaks Spanish, English, French and Italian.

Monica worked with the National Center for State Courts to receive a professional certification as a Trial-Court Legal Interpreter.

As the Language Access Coordinator, Monica will be responsible for developing procedures to implement the Language Access Plan of the 22nd Judicial Circuit. This plan identifies and removes barriers to the

Court which impact non-English speaking individuals. In 2016 there have been 3,000 requests in 15 different languages for interpreting services.

Additionally, Monica will work with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice to implement practices that provide equal access to the Court, regardless of language. Monica is passionate about her profession and sees it as an opportunity to provide a voice for those who do not speak English. Monica presently lives in Loves Park, Illinois.

Judge Maureen P. McIntyre— By Dawn Roth

As many of you are aware, the Honorable Judge Maureen McIntyre is retiring at the end of this year. I had an opportunity to meet with her and discuss her time as a judge here in McHenry County. It is greatly appreciated that she took time out of her day to meet with me, so I can share what I learned about her with all of you.

Judge McIntyre, the daughter of two Irish immigrants, was born in New York. After obtaining her bachelor's degree, she moved to Illinois where she initially sought to obtain a Master's Degree in History from the University of Illinois Chicago. However prior to finishing her Master's Degree, she changed course and instead went to law school, attending night school at IIT Chicago Kent College of Law, while working at a publishing company and then a law firm during the day.

Judge McIntyre

spent 20 years in private practice as a litigator before becoming a judge in December of 1996. At that time, she was the third woman to be appointed as a judge in McHenry County. During her time as a judge, she tried cases in virtually every area of the law (other than felony trials), and was the first judge in McHenry County to become a Special Assignment Judge.

Judge McIntyre considers juvenile court to be the most rewarding area of the law over which she has presided on account of the opportunity afforded to her in helping children to know that there are people who care about them. She hopes she has made a difference in each child's life and considers it vital that each child knows that she never gave up on them, no matter their circumstances.

Judge McIntyre believes that the most difficult aspect of being a judge is making the right decision, particularly when people's lives are significantly impacted by her decisions. Perhaps the best part of being a judge is no longer spending her days billing clients.

After 20 years spent on the bench, there are many aspects of the job that Judge McIntyre will miss, but most of all, she will miss the people she works with each day. On the other hand, she will not miss getting up early or the 45-minute drive to the courthouse each morning. She has extensive travel plans, as well as quality time planned with her 4 children and 3 adorable grandchildren.

Judge McIntyre will be greatly missed. I am sure I speak for us all, when I wish her nothing but the best in all her future endeavors.



Good Luck

Congratulations

Meet the New Faces of the Court

Karra Pessetti started working with the Department of Probation and Court Services as a Juvenile Probation Officer in July 2016. She recently graduated from Carthage College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Criminal Justice and Sociology. As a collegiate, Karra received the *Diskrud-Eller*

scholarship and the *Outstanding Senior* award for her majors. During her undergraduate career, Karra completed internships with Probation and Pretrial Services for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and the Clerk of Court's office for the Kenosha County Circuit Court.



Natalie is very happy to join the team in Court Administration and comes to us with a host of education/experience including; a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Texas, Master Of Arts in Applied Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Illinois,

registered Spanish interpreter for the Florida State Court System, and served as a Consular Agent for the Legal Affairs Department at the Consulate General of Mexico in Chicago. She is a brand new resident of Woodstock as well.



Kevin Ruiz is a McHenry County native. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Roosevelt University. Kevin has previously worked for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and has worked extensively with youth at risk in Chicago.

Kevin is currently serv-

ing as an Adult Pretrial Officer in Court Services.

Join us in welcoming Kevin to the Circuit



22nd Judicial Circuit Hosts 2nd Appellate Conference

In early November, the 22nd Judicial Circuit hosted the semi-annual 2nd Appellate Conference in Crystal Lake.

This conference is made up of all of the Judicial Circuits which comprise the 2nd Appellate District and is attended by Chief Judges, Court Administration and Probation Services

The topic for the conference was a recent report entitled "Achieving Civil Justice for All." This report and its recommendations were drafted by the Conference of Chief Justices and looked at the current trends with Civil Case filings. At is-

sue is the current reality of civil caseloads across the country and the cost of litigation.

Presenting this report was Paula Hannaford-Agor from the National Center for State Courts and Judge Jerome Abrams from Dakota County, Minnesota.

Included in the presentation was an overview of the current national "landscape" of civil cases which was defined after reviewing more than 900,000 civil cases. The vast majority of these cases are contract related cases, again with the majority of these cases being debt collection. Nearly 35% of civil cases result in a dismissal, and those that reach a judgment are typically \$12,789 or less. The National Center for

State Courts and the State Justice Institute have developed recommendations to address the specific issues raised by the report. Additionally, a Request for Proposal has been put forth seeking local courts to engage these recommendations and local judicial stakeholders in a effort to improve civil justice. The 22nd Judicial Circuit has drafted a response to the RFP and will be seeking to implement all of the recommendations.

For additional information about the [Achieving Civil Justice for All report](#), please click on the link.

CALL TO ACTION:
Achieving Civil
Justice for All

Recommendations by the Conference of Chief Justices
to the 22nd Judicial Circuit Appellate Conference

Jury Commission Continues to Seek Current Magazines

Every Monday, 160 jurors are summoned for jury duty. The Jury Commission tries to supply magazines for the jurors while they are waiting. The court does not subscribe to any magazines, newspapers, or periodicals, but tries to secure them through other means. Many of the magazines are outdated.

If you have a stack of magazines that you would like to donate to the Jury Commission, it would be very much appreciated. When you're done reading your favorite monthly magazine, please think about dropping it off at the Jury Commission.



I WANT YOUR

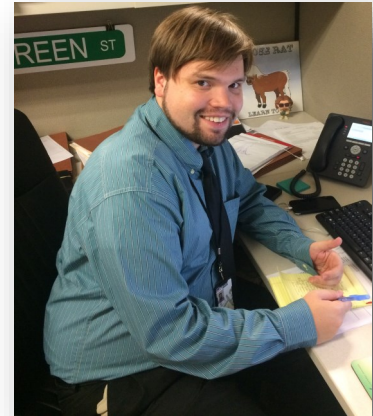


More New Faces

Alex Noreen is a native of the Fox River Valley area. He holds 3 Bachelor of Arts Degrees from the University of St. Francis: a BA in History, a BA in Political Science, and a BA in Criminal Justice.

Alex previously interned at the Will County Court

House. Alex is currently serving as an Adult Probation Officer in Court Services. Join us in welcoming Alex to the Circuit.



Kerstin Paglini is a native of the Fox River Valley area. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice from Illinois State University. Kerstin volunteered and interned at Lake County Probation, Piatt County Probation, and McLean County Juvenile Detention.

Kerstin is currently serving as an Adult Probation Officer in Court Services. Join us in welcoming Kerstin to the Circuit.

Look at those Cub Fans—Go Cubs Go!!!!



One of McHenry County's Newest Court Security Officers—by David Walz



I am a graduate of Western Illinois University with a BS in Law Enforcement Administration with a minor in Criminology. I began my public service as a paid on-call firefighter/EMT with the Village of Stickney Fire Department. I was then hired by the Village of Mount Prospect where I worked as a patrol officer for a year prior to being employed by the Village of Island Lake as a patrol officer in 1989. I am married to my wife of 26 years, Nancy Peterson-Walz

and am a father to my three children: Scott, Emilie and Ryan. I rose through the ranks at Island Lake to become the first Deputy Chief of the Police Department under Chief Don Bero. I continued my service as Deputy Chief under Chief Anthony Sciarrone until my retirement last April. I have had many accomplishments during my Career and also was honored to obtain training at Northwestern's Staff and Command School. I am honored to serve as a Sheriff's Court Security Officer with the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, noting that for years I planned on applying for this job once retired from police work. Many things keep me busy outside of work including my family, our dogs, model trains, and of course being a bagpiper. I belong to a Pipe and Drum band called the Northern Illinois Pipes and Drums which is based out of Lake Zurich IL. I currently serve as the band's

president. The band is a non-profit service oriented band, which when called upon, will provide musical support for public safety and military funerals as well as appear in parades and other civic or private gatherings that request our services. Our band was privileged to play with the Chicago Police Pipe and Drum band for MCSO Deputy Dwight Maness. Our band also has been privileged to play with both the Chicago Fire Department Pipe and Drum band and Chicago Police Pipe and Drum Band for the past three years at the South Side Irish Parade. Also for the last three years our band has played at Honor Flight Chicago. I look forward to represent the McHenry County Sheriff's Department at future band appearances. So don't be shocked if you see me walking through these hallowed halls in a kilt from time to time.



Office of Special Project Update—Jason Sterwerf

On November 15, 2016 Adult Drug Court held its eighth graduation with a ceremony celebrating 5 graduates who have reclaimed their lives. In addition on August 2, 2016 Mental Health Court held its fifteenth graduation ceremony, celebrating several graduates that have worked on their recovery to achieve stability within our community. The Twenty Second Judicial Circuit's Mental Health Court was convened in April of 2007 and the Adult Drug Court accepted its first participant on December 1, 2011. Combined, the programs have 138 graduates who have less than a 16% criminal recidivism rate.

The Specialty Courts are continuing to reduce recidivism rates within the county, reduce client law enforcement contacts, and provide access to psychiatric and therapeutic care. They also will continue to improve participant's ability to independently manage psychiatric, therapeutic, and medical care, while improving family, social, and community relationships, which leads to reduction in Emergency Department Visits, and over utilizing the social service provider network.

The Mental Health Court program continues to develop collaborative partnerships. Recently the Mental Health Court began a partnership with Association for

Individual Development (AID) to offer Psychosocial Rehabilitation Groups (PSR) for our clients. Currently this is the first partnership to be designed exclusively for the Court program in our community. On October 1, 2016 the Adult Drug Court was notified that it was awarded an \$885,000 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Drug Court expansion Grant. The grant is designed to expand treatment services for 150 participants over a 3 year period. The grant will include partners with community providers such as: McHenry County Health Department, Rosecrance Health Network, Centegra Health Systems, and Gateway Foundation. The program will expand inpatient, outpatient, and health testing services. In addition the program will be implementing new Trauma Focused groups held within the court house. The 22nd Judicial Circuit's grant opportunity is 1 of 6 in the United States to receive multiple year funding.

On October 31, 2016 the Adult Drug Court submitted its application to the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts, for the first State Certification for Drug Courts. The Administrative Office of Illinois Courts has selected the Mental Health Court Program as the State of Illinois best practice standard for specialty courts.



If you have any questions please contact Jason Sterwerf (815) 334-4913.



From the Desk of the Court Administrator, —Dan Wallis

Access to Justice—Just what does that mean anyway?



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A time of danger;

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A time of opportunity;

Access to Justice

+

Expediency and
Timeliness

+

Equality, Fairness, and
Integrity

+

Independence and
Accountability

Public Trust and Confi-
dence in the Judiciary

Over the years this thing called "Access to Justice" keeps coming up. In the 1990's it was part of the Trial Court Performance Standards. Again in 2005, Access to Justice came to the forefront as part of the National Center for State Court's Courtools Measure 1—Access and Fairness. Presently Chief Judge Michael Sullivan sits on the statewide Access to Justice Committee.

Access to justice is paramount to everything that we are as a country. We are a nation of laws and we have an entire branch of government devoted to applying the law to a specific set of circumstance. But having access to justice is much more than just that. Every barrier, every obstacle that gets in the way of justice needs to be evaluated, studied and then obliterated. How is justice served if you can't get through the door, metaphorically speaking.

About a decade ago I had the privilege of working with an individual by the name of Chris Crawford who hailed from the municipal courts in California. After his time in the court system, Chris became a senior consultant for the National Center for State Courts. It was in this role that I had the opportunity to

learn from him, and he became one of my mentors. One evening in Holland, Michigan where we had been teaching caseload management, we had a discussion over dinner. That night on the deck of the BoatWerks restaurant, we discussed how to achieve public trust and confidence in the judicial branch of government. The first building block: access to justice. Without access you can achieve nothing else. It does not matter how quickly you resolve the case, it does not matter how fair the process is, without access you never get to those points.

Access is not just about finding the courthouse and getting in the front door. It also includes what happens after a person gets in the front door.

Is signage in the courthouse easy-to-understand? What if there is a language barrier? What are the times of court? Does the person understand what just happened in court? Do self-represented litigants have meaningful access to forms that are easily understood by nonattorneys? Does the cost of litigation create a barrier to litigation?

The last point came up recently at our 2nd Appellate Conference. Imagine this

scenario: Somebody wrongs you and you believe you are entitled to \$20,000 in damages. However when you seek an attorney to assist you the cost of litigation exceeds the amount of the award. Did you receive justice?

This is why access initiatives are so vitally important. It is about making the judicial system available to everyone on an equal and level field where disputes can be settled in a civilized manner. In order to successfully provide access, courts must do the following: Promote accessibility by eliminating barriers that prevent people from understanding and exercising their rights. Ensuring fairness and delivery of fair and just outcomes for all parties, including those facing financial and other disadvantages. Finally, by delivering those fair and just outcomes effectively, without waste or duplication. A very worthwhile cause indeed.

—Dan Wallis





Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of McHenry County

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The mission of the 22nd Judicial Circuit of McHenry County is to be the guardian of life, liberty and property to all seeking access to justice, by adhering to practices that ensure equality, fairness and confidence in the judiciary.